

Benton, Donald M.

From: Benton, Donald M.
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 2:28 PM
To: madeleine.e.westerhout@who.eop.gov
Subject: Important note to POTUS from the Director of the US Selective Service

Importance: High

Dear Ms. Westerhout,

Federal code requires me to report directly to the President. Below is my first report for his eyes only. I have also mailed a copy but the information in it is timely now. Also, I am travelling on official business Sunday and then home to WA for the holidays on Wednesday. If he needs to see me concerning the CoS, I can be available until noon Sunday or I will change my flight, just let me know. The Boss knows me as Big Don from Washington state. Please put this note in his folder.

Also, the Boss knows me personally and it is important for him to know that [REDACTED] (Exemption 6) and I have discussed it and have agreed to be available for consideration for the CoS position. I need him to at the very least know that I would make the commitment if he needed me. He should be made aware of all options. I will forward pertinent data via private email. Confidentially, please let him know. My personal cel is [REDACTED] (Exemption 6)
Thank you.

Don
Senator Donald M. Benton
Director
United States Selective Service System
~~703-505-4010~~ sss.gov



The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC, 20000

December 12, 2018

Dear Mr. President,

First, thank you for asking me to come to DC to help your administration Make America Great Again. As you know, I managed WA State with a huge victory in the primaries, the convention floor in Cleveland to successfully block the roll call on the rules, and then managed 6 states for the General election. You may recall my meeting with you in your suite at the Westin in Cleveland. I also managed a seamless transition for you at EPA, prior to Pruitt's arrival. I have been the Director here at Selective Service since you appointed me in April of last year. The "Military Selective Service Act of 1948" requires that I report directly to the President, therefore, this is my first report.

I am happy to report that the agency is fully capable of executing its mission if called upon by you to do so.

(Exemption 1)

That has been corrected!

In just a year and a half we have completely reorganized our IT department and our HR department resulting in cost savings, greater efficiency, and proficient personnel. I am using your Executive Order on modernization to upgrade IT system hardware, as well as significantly streamlining the processes and downsizing of management personnel.

(Exemption 5)

I would appreciate your help and support on a couple things:

1. Would you please ask White House staff to include the Selective Service, whenever appropriate, in WH events/functions that involve any Department of Defense or Veterans Affairs issues (bill signings, visits to American Legion/VFW conventions, public forums, etc.). This will help us raise general public

awareness of our agency to the American people which is greatly needed to promote the federal requirement of Selective Service registration.

2.



(Exemption 5)
Sir, this is my brief report. We have done enormous work to improve the return on the taxpayer dollars, the response time of the agency in a crisis, as well as agency modernization. The agency is fully capable now of performing its duty if you and Congress ever call upon us to do so.

I want you to know that I can always do more to help you. Now that I have a trusted Deputy Director and Chief of Staff on board, I have more bandwidth to implement the policies and priorities of your administration. I am available for any special project that you need, including the opportunity to be your Chief of Staff. I believe my qualifications, competence, and loyalty far outweigh anyone you are currently considering.

(Exemption 6)
[REDACTED] and I have discussed it and we are willing to commit at least two more years to help you achieve your goals. Please let me know how I may be of more service to you and our nation.

Sincerely your friend,

Big Don from Washington State
Donald Benton
Director
United States Selective Service

Benton, Donald M.

From: Benton, Donald M.
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 3:38 PM
To: Doocey, Sean E. EOP/WHO
Subject: one more PPO appt.

Sean,
Jennifer used to be my PPO appointment contact but she left to help on the midterms. Is she back and still assigned to me?

The career EA (assigned to the Director) that was here when I arrived is retiring. I have one additional Schedule C appointment I have kept vacant in hopes of filling that slot with a loyalist after she retires. There are a few good people that will be losing their jobs on the hill that I plan to interview (some worked with us in 2016). Can you verify that I have one additional Sched C slot and that I have your blessing to fill it come January. No additional cost to agency as I am not filling the career EA slot.

Merry Christmas! Hope you get some time with the family.

Don
Senator Donald M. Benton
Director
United States Selective Service System
703-605-4010
Don.benton@sss.gov



Benton, Donald M.

From: Benton, Donald M.
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 7:09 PM
To: Jared.c.kushner@who.eop.gov
Subject: First Step enhancement
Attachments: Letter to Chuck Grassley - 12-10-2018.docx

Importance: High

Dear Jared,

I hope all is well and that your family is having a wonderful holiday season.

First, great work getting the FIRST STEP Act through the House and hopefully the Senate before the end of the 115th Congress.

As you are aware, those required to register with Selective Service, who fail to register by age 26, face a lifetime of denied benefits such as denial of federal student aid, denial of federal job training under the Workforce Investment Act, denial of federal employment, etc. Many states have enacted similar restrictions for those who fail to register with Selective Service, as well as private corporations such as FedEx, who require their employees to be registered with Selective Service, if applicable.

As such, Selective Service is requesting that Congress include language requiring federal inmates to register with Selective Service. **This will help prepare inmates for success post-prison, and thus help reduce recidivism.** Without it they may not be able to get a job.

I have attached a copy of the letter we are submitting to Chairman Grassley later today.

Let me know if you have any questions, and keep up the good work! Also, on another note.... I do have the capacity to help on other projects or temporarily run other agencies. Now that I have a trusted Deputy and CoS I have more bandwidth. As true rock solid loyalists are rare, I am happy to step up wherever the Boss may need a strong leader that's got his back! Love my job, but feel like I could do more!

Sincerely,

Don
Senator Donald M. Benton
Director
United States Selective Service System
703-605-4010
Don.benton@sss.gov



December 10, 2018

The Hon. Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

I am writing in regard to the FIRST STEP Act, also known as H.R. 5682 and S. 2795, which seeks to reduce recidivism by preparing people to come home from prison job-ready and able to succeed outside of the federal prison system.

As you are aware, failure to register with Selective Service prior to reaching the age of 26 results in a lifetime of denied benefits, such as denial of federal student aid, denial of federal job training under the Workforce Investment Act, denial of federal employment, etc. Many states have enacted similar restrictions for those who fail to register with Selective Service, as well as private corporations such as FedEx, who require their employees to be registered with Selective Service, if applicable.

In other words, inmates required to register with Selective Service, who fail to register, will be denied many post-prison opportunities that could help them succeed outside of prison.

As such, we respectfully request that the following language is added to TITLE IV – MISCELLANEOUS CRIMINAL JUSTICE:

Sec. 415. Selective Service Registration

Beginning no later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall require all inmates, who are required to registration under Section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), as amended, to register with the Selective Service System.

Inclusion of this language will help prepare inmates for success outside the federal prison system and thus contribute to the reduction of recidivism.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Benton

CC: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
The White House

Benton, Donald M.

From: Benton, Donald M.
Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2018 5:58 PM
To: Doocey, Sean E. EOP/WHO
Subject: National Appeals Board

Hi Sean,
Hope everything is GREAT!

I sent you an email 2 weeks ago with a recommendation for National Appeals Board Chairman, [REDACTED] (exemption 6)
[REDACTED], from Oregon. He just contacted me and asked to withdraw his application. Sorry about that. I will continue to search for and locate several possible replacements. I should get you a list by the 2nd week in January, unless you have to have it earlier. Let me know.

On another note, I have capacity if you need me to manage another agency temporarily.....not that I want more work, but if the Boss needs a trusted soul to hold things together or to clean house somewhere, I am happy to do it. I don't really care what the press writes about me! I am a good utility hitter and can still manage this agency quite well!

Let me know if I can help!

Have a Very Merry Christmas!
Don
Senator Donald M. Benton
Director
United States Selective Service System
703-605-4010
Don.benton@sss.gov

PS: Did Jennifer come back to PPO from FL effort?